



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

October 2014

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



The Department of Community Development is responsible for helping to improve the quality of life for our citizens in many important ways such as redevelopment of older neighborhoods, improvement of aging infrastructure and making sure structures, especially older ones, are compliant with City code. That can be a challenge in a City that is over 180 years old! To that end, I am happy to announce that the Department has completed a DRAFT of the Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] Five Year Consolidated Action Plan. In the plan, we outline our commitment to providing world-class service and utilities to our City's neighborhoods. The DRAFT of this plan will be available for public review and comment starting on September 25, 2014 and closing on October 24th, 2014. Drafts will be available for review at public libraries throughout the city and on the City's website at <http://mishawaka.in.gov>.

The 2015-2019 funding plan will continue to follow the basic parameters of the plans established by the City of Mishawaka in previous years. It will continue to focus on revitalization activities as they relate to low to moderate housing, spot/blight elimination and improvements of public facilities such as curb and sidewalk repair. The previous years of large public works (curb and sidewalks) projects in the Milburn Boulevard area allowed us to address a significant need and complemented other activities that were not federally funded. As non-federal funding dwindles and projects become more difficult to fund, we anticipate an even greater need to partner with Community Development Corporations, concentrate on rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes, provide affordable housing, and work closely with the City's sub-grantees to insure that our collaborative efforts serve the greatest needs of our community.

The Department of Community Development is committed to its goal of purchasing and demolishing blighted vacant and foreclosed properties and providing those lots as future sites for first-time homebuyers and low-to-moderate income households. We have had a very successful run over the past five years of adding good housing stock to the community through

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Oct 25 Oktoberfest
(Beutter Park)

Ghouls and Goodies

Halloween Events

(at the Battell Center)

Oct 28 Ghoule-ey Story Time

Oct 30 Goodies and Crafts

Nov 7- 8 "Singin' and
14-15 Dancin' Into The
21-22 Holidays"
(Battell Center)

Nov 27-28 Thanksgiving
Holiday
(City Offices Closed)

Dec 5-6 WinterFest
(Beutter Park and
Merrifield Complex)

ONLINE ACCESS

The City of Mishawaka maintains an online presence and can be found on the web at <http://mishawaka.in.gov>.

Find us on Facebook at
<http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>

Remember, the current issue of the Mishawaka Communicator is always available as of the 1st of every month at
<http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>



Is Genetic Counseling Right for You?

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Did you know that approximately 5-10% of breast cancer is inherited through a woman's genetic code? Some women are born with a genetic mutation, or change, that makes them especially prone to breast cancer and are also at an increased risk for ovarian cancer. Men who have mutations in these genes also have an increased risk for breast cancer. Knowing that these risks are present can help women take measures for early cancer detection and prevention.

You may want to consider genetic counseling if:

- You or a family member have had cancer at a young age (<50)
- You or a family member have had two or more separate cancers
- Multiple family members on the same side of the family have had the same type of cancer or associated cancers (example: breast and ovarian cancer)
- You have a family member who has a known hereditary cancer mutation
- You have concern or anxiety about your risks for developing cancer

What are the benefits of cancer genetic counseling?

Cancer genetic counselors will evaluate your personal and family medical history, identify which cancers you and your family members may be at increased risk for developing, and assess the

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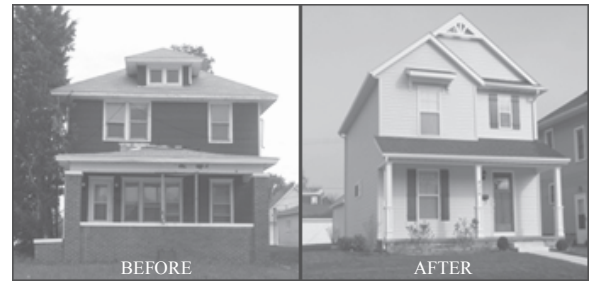
A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

our First-Time Homebuyer Program and Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County. We will continue that effort and expand upon our relationship with Habitat for Humanity and add two to four new houses per year on sites that the City already has acquired or will acquire in the future. An example of this type of project is at 426 W. 9th Street. This property was vacant for several years and uninhabitable when the City purchased it. It is now the site of a beautiful two-story home that compliments the neighborhood very well.

In addition to new construction needs, the City is also well aware of the need that low-to-moderate income residents have to repair their homes and understands that this can be a costly experience. Moving forward, we remain committed to serving those families. We will continue our Summer of Service Program which utilizes volunteers from the community to perform minor exterior, cosmetic repairs such as scraping, painting, and removing overgrowth from foundations and fence lines. Our volunteer groups included members from Epic Church and First United Methodist Church. First United Methodist performed work on the garage pictured below that is owned by an elderly person who maintained an impeccably clean home, but did not have the funds available to bring her garage up to City code standards. Just a weekend of scraping, fresh paint, a new service door and some minor trim work by volunteers from the community really improved the looks and functionality of this garage.

As we have done in the past, the Department will continue to support our Engineering Department to replace curbs and sidewalks throughout the city to improve handicapped accessibility. A project that took substantial funding last year was the Fairmount Avenue rehabilitation project. This project was combined with a sewer project and CDBG funds were used to replace some of the oldest sidewalks in the City, provided safer routes to school and better accessibility for area residents.

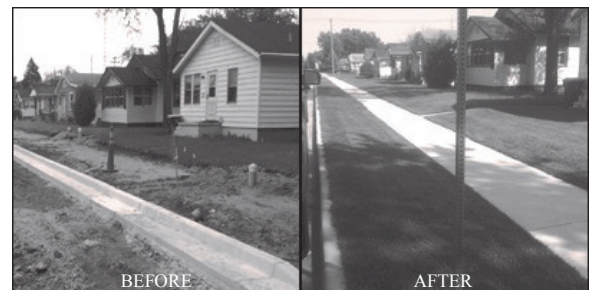
In the coming five years the Department will partner with the public, the Redevelopment Commission and myself to determine the best projects to tackle that will give us the highest impact per dollar spent. As usual, we look forward to hearing the thoughts and recommendations from our community. Please feel free to contact David Thomas at (574) 258-1668 with any questions, ideas, or comments regarding the use of CDBG funding.



426 W. 9th



Garage Update



Fairmount Avenue
Rehabilitation Project

Mayor Dave Wood



Is Genetic Counseling Right for You? *(continued)*

likelihood that there is a hereditary cause to the cancer in your family.

If genetic testing is applicable, genetic counselors will help you understand how the results might impact you and your family. If you have had cancer, genetic testing may help you and your doctors make decisions regarding your treatment, follow-up screening, and prevention methods. If you have not had cancer, genetic testing may help you and your doctors devise a plan for cancer screening and/or prevention specific to your cancer risks.

What about Health Insurance?

In most instances, insurance companies will cover a portion of the cost for genetic counseling and testing. If genetic testing is indicated, the genetic counselor can work with you to determine your coverage of genetic testing.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and GINA protect patients in group health insurance plans from discrimination based on genetic information.

To learn more about genetic screening and testing, contact your physician.